

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7296**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1978

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 8, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Private Deer Herds.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Friend

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that certain privately owned animals in the deer and elk family may be destroyed to reduce the size of the herd during times when the transportation of the animals is prohibited by the Governor or Board of Animal Health.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill would require an owner who destroys its privately owned cervids for the purpose of controlling the herd size to have the destroyed cervids tested for infectious diseases under a program administered by the Board of Animal Health (BOAH). As of January 8, 2003, the BOAH has tested 92 elk, 130 white tailed deer, and one reindeer under its Captive Surveillance Program. The Captive Surveillance Program specifically tests cervids that are privately owned. This bill could potentially increase the number of cervids to be tested for infectious diseases if the Governor or Board prohibits the transportation of these animals.

In order to test the cervids, field veterinarians travel to the location where a cervid is destroyed and takes a sample for testing. According to the BOAH, the United States Department of Agriculture currently pays for the samples to be shipped to the USDA where they are tested. If the BOAH is required to test more cervids as a result of this proposal, the agency would likely incur additional travel expenses in taking the samples. The fiscal impact to the state would be dependent on the number of cervids destroyed and the distance to be traveled in order to take the samples during those times when the transportation of these animals is prohibited.

*Background* - According to the BOAH, it currently has a registry set up to collect information on privately

owned cervid herds. As of January 8, 2003, the registry contained information on 112 herds. The BOAH expects the number of cervids it tests to increase as more private owners of cervid herds register with the agency.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Board of Animal Health.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Gary Haynes, Board of Animal Health, (317) 227-0345.

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